

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0186] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0186] Figure 21 shows a sensing mechanism 12g including a transmitter or depth sensor 214. Transmitter 214 is shown operatively associated with table saw 10g and is operable to monitor the depth (thickness) of ~~an item such as~~ the workpiece 218 that is being fed into saw blade 208. In one example, the depth sensor 214 may be configured to ~~measure~~ monitor a depth of ~~an item~~ the workpiece just prior to contacting the saw blade 208. In another example, the depth sensor may be configured to ~~measure~~ monitor a depth of ~~an item~~ the workpiece as it is being cut by the saw blade 208. It can be appreciated that, the item workpiece being ~~measured~~ monitored may be a combination of the ~~work-piece~~ workpiece 218 and a human extremity. In most cutting operations, the thickness of the workpiece 218 that is being cut is relatively consistent. When a ~~measured~~ monitored depth of the item workpiece remains substantially unchanged, operation of the saw blade 208 continues under normal operation. If, however, the depth sensor 214 ~~measures~~ monitors a change in depth of ~~an item~~ the workpiece proximate to the saw blade 208, the sensing mechanism 12g determines that the ~~item measured~~ workpiece being monitored may be a combination of the workpiece 218 and a human extremity. As a result, it can be determined that a human extremity may be too close to the blade 208. In this way, if depth sensor 214 detects a sudden change in the depth (thickness) of the ~~item~~ workpiece being fed into the saw blade 208, switch 216 is activated to stop saw blade 208 as a precautionary measure to prevent

contact of human extremities with saw blade 208. It is appreciated that switch 216 may also comprise any of the safety mechanisms 14 disclosed herein.